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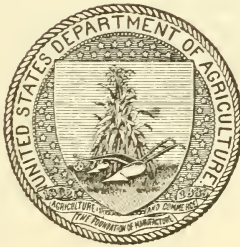
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ASSISTANCE TO PRIVATE OWNERS IN
THE PRACTICE OF FORESTRY.



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ASSISTANCE TO PRIVATE OWNERS IN THE PRACTICE OF FORESTRY.

MORE PRODUCTIVE USE OF FOREST AND WASTE LANDS POSSIBLE.

The forests of the United States, because of repeated fires and unwise cutting, are at present producing a small fraction of their possible yield. By scientific cutting many woodlands can be made to produce from one-third to two-thirds more useful material and a much larger proportion of the more valuable kinds of wood. Extensive areas of waste land suited only to tree growth are now largely unproductive. If planted to forest trees, they would yield substantial returns. Small areas of woodland for producing fuel and fencing or to furnish windbreaks are needed on many farms. As the supply of timber in the country decreases the better use of forest and waste land is becoming of more importance and value to the private owner. This circular points out the means and kind of assistance in this work which are at his disposal.

WHAT PRIVATE OWNERS NEED TO KNOW.

Protection from forest fires must precede the practice of forestry. The majority of private owners need direct information and advice on protective methods adapted to their lands.

Protecting forest lands from fire.

Many owners need technical information which will enable them to reforest unproductive lands not adapted to farming, or to establish windbreaks or shelterbelts. Such owners need to know how to start and care for plantations, what species to plant, how fast they grow, and what financial returns may be expected from planting.

Planting waste land.

The greatest need of the average woodlot owner is advice on how to cut his timberland so as to perpetuate and improve it. The usual methods of cutting result too often in depleting the wood-producing capacity of the forest and impairing its permanent value. In many instances such destructive methods can be changed in simple, practical ways which will increase the productiveness and value of woodlands without seriously restricting their present use.

Cutting woodlands.

WHERE ASSISTANCE MAY BE OBTAINED.

The services of private or consulting foresters can now be secured. These men will advise owners on all matters connected with forestry. They will outline systems of fire protection, prepare plans for tree planting or the cutting of timberlands, and supervise operations on the ground, if desired. Expert advice

Consulting foresters.

on such matters as shade trees, landscape gardening, and tree surgery is also available.

A number of the States have established forestry departments in charge of a State forester, who assists private owners. State foresters. In several States advice is furnished on the ground by a detailed examination of woodlots or areas to be planted with forest trees. Many of the States distribute free publications on forestry. A few of them furnish their citizens with forest-planting stock at cost price for reforestation purposes within the State.

The Forest Service of the Department of Agriculture also assists private owners. Forest Service. It often accomplishes this best by referring applications from small owners within States having forest organizations to the proper State officer. This is especially true where woodlot examinations are desired. The State forester is in closer touch with local conditions within his State. Moreover, he can usually make examinations at less expense to the owner than is possible for the Forest Service.

Applicants for assistance in the management of large forest properties are usually referred by the Forest Service to private or consulting foresters. The Service is not now equipped to examine large tracts and prepare plans for their management. With trained foresters available elsewhere, it is no longer necessary for the Government to assume this work for large owners.

HOW THE FOREST SERVICE ASSISTS PRIVATE OWNERS.

Applicants desiring examinations of timber holdings whom the Service can not help directly are supplied with a list of private or consulting foresters. Lists of State and private foresters. If their State has a forester, they are given his name and address.

Owners who desire to obtain planting stock, either seeds or young trees, with which to reforest waste lands or establish farm woodlots or windbreaks, are supplied with lists of dealers in such stock. Lists of dealers in planting stock. The Forest Service has no plant material for distribution. The only exception is in the case of settlers in the Kinkaid district, Nebraska, to whom planting stock from the Halsey nursery will be furnished, in accordance with the act of March 4, 1911.

One of the principal means of assisting private owners is in the preparation and distribution of publications on forestry. Distribution of publications. These include (1) "planting leaflets," which briefly describe the principal species adapted to various parts of the United States and methods of planting them; (2) commercial tree bulletins, which deal with the characteristics and scientific treatment of the more important commercial species, as they occur in natural stands; and (3) a series of "regional studies," which discuss questions of forest management, planting, and utilization with reference to the needs of private owners within regions where the conditions as to forest growth and markets for wood products are comparatively uniform. Publications of the last two kinds are limited in number, but will be increased as rapidly as possible. Other publications dealing specifically with markets and wood uses are issued from time to time. A complete list of the available Forest Service publications will be furnished upon application.

When information contained in publications will not meet the exact needs of an owner, the Forest Service endeavors to give him specific advice by correspondence. This is especially applicable to tree planting.

Specific advice by correspondence.

In a limited number of cases the Forest Service is prepared to supply owners with detailed advice regarding the practice of forestry based upon examinations of their tracts.

Specific advice based upon examination of the tract.

COOPERATIVE EXAMINATIONS.

Cooperative examinations of private timberlands are restricted mainly to States not equipped to furnish their citizens with expert advice, and to the smaller timber holdings within such States. The majority of such examinations are of tracts ranging in area from 5 to 300 acres.

For whom examinations are made.

Unless half a dozen or more examinations can be made within a more or less restricted area at the same time, the expense incident to the work would scarcely be justified.

Cooperation with groups of applicants.

It is sometimes possible to make a single examination in connection with other field work in the same region. As a rule, however, an applicant is asked to interest several of his neighbors within the same or adjoining counties to make joint application with himself for the examination of their lands at the same time. Since the educational value of the work as well as its economy is greatly increased by cooperating with groups rather than with individuals, cooperative assistance is, wherever practicable, conducted on this basis.

After an examination, a report is prepared for the owner giving:

(1) Suggestions on the best methods of managing the woodlands, with specific recommendations on marking trees for cutting.

Kind of advice given the owner.

(2) Suggestions on the most valuable uses of the timber and the most profitable means of marketing it.

(3) Where tree planting is recommended, detailed instructions on planting the area examined; a list of the best species to plant; suggestions on planting methods; kind of planting stock to produce or purchase; and the care of the plantation.

It is usually possible to furnish satisfactory advice on planting by correspondence. This obviates the expense of field examinations. In such cases the owner should carefully describe the character of the proposed planting site by filling out the blanks in Form 728, on page 7 of this circular. Additional copies of this form will be furnished upon application.

The Forest Service can not assist owners in:

(1) Preparation of detailed estimates of standing timber.

What the Forest Service can not give the owner.

(2) Preparation of scientific data or furnishing expert advice of any kind for use in litigation.

(3) Supervision of cutting or planting operations.

(4) Furnishing seed or planting stock, with the exception noted on page 4 in the case of residents in the Kinkaid district, Nebraska.

(5) Examinations for the purpose of giving advice on the care of ornamental trees or groves, or on the management of forests where the owner is chiefly interested in landscaping or parking rather than

in the practice of forestry for wood production. Consulting foresters, tree "doctors" and landscape experts are readily obtainable for these lines of work.

Cooperative examinations for private owners are made by the Service in accordance with the following terms:

Regulations governing private cooperation. The Forest Service pays the salary of its expert while engaged upon the examination. The owner pays his traveling and living expenses. If a special trip is necessary, these expenses are charged from Washington, or one of the district headquarters in the West, to the tract and return. The district headquarters are at Missoula, Mont.; Denver, Colo.; Albuquerque, N. Mex.; Ogden, Utah; San Francisco, Cal.; and Portland, Oreg. If a member of the Service is in the region from which the application is made, his expenses are charged from the nearest point on his route and return. Where several examinations are made within the same region, the total expenses are apportioned among the respective owners who are assisted. Applicants for assistance are required to deposit in advance a sum sufficient to cover the estimated expenses, with the understanding that any unexpended balance of the deposit will be refunded at the completion of the work.

No examination will be made by the Forest Service unless the owner expresses a readiness to take definite steps toward improved management of his forest lands and agrees to carry out as far as he finds practicable the recommendations contained in the report prepared for him.

What the Forest Service expects of owners whom it assists. The Service further expects that the owner will assist its expert as far as possible in making the examination, and that he or his representative will accompany the expert over the property. It is also understood that the owner will furnish reports from time to time as requested by the Service on the work done, its cost, financial returns, and actual results.

HOW TO SECURE THE ASSISTANCE OF THE FOREST SERVICE.

Those who desire assistance from the Forest Service under the provisions of this circular should fill out one of the two forms given herein—Form 704 for the examination of forest lands, and Form 728 for assistance in tree planting—or make application to the Forester at Washington, D. C., or to the nearest district forester, stating the kind of assistance desired. Assistance which can be rendered by sending publications or by correspondence will be furnished immediately. If a field examination is necessary and can be undertaken by the Service, the application will be filed and arrangements made with the owner for an examination of the tract at the earliest practicable date.

SPECIAL COOPERATIVE ARRANGEMENTS.

In addition to direct cooperation with private owners, the Forest Service will make special cooperative arrangements, as far as its resources permit, with States, agricultural colleges, boards of trade, and similar organizations for the purpose of interesting small owners in the practice of forestry. Such cooperation may take the form of organizing forestry clubs among private owners or of furnishing an expert to conduct field examinations under the direction of the cooperator and in whole or in part at its expense. No set regulations govern cooperation of this character, which will be adapted to the needs and conditions in each case.

(Form 728.)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE—FOREST SERVICE.

APPLICATION FOR EXAMINATION OF LANDS FOR FOREST PLANTING.

....., 19...
(date)

Name of applicant.....

Post-office address.....

Location of tract to be planted.....
(town) (county) (State)

Area of tract on which planting is contemplated..... acres.

Character of land:
(level) (rolling) (steep)

Kind of soil:
(sandy) (loamy) (clay)

Does the soil contain lime?

Depth of surface soil:
(Shallow; 6-12 inches) (medium; 12-24 inches) (deep; 24-35 inches)
.....
(very deep; over 36 inches)

Drainage:
(poor) (fair) (good)

Has the land been cultivated? If so, for what period, and what crops
have been raised?

Ground cover—character and extent:
(Grass, weeds, shrubs, trees—varieties of each and per
cent of surface bearing them)

What trees thrive in natural woodlots in your neighborhood?

Object of planting:
(Production of fuel, poles, posts, ties, lumber; as shelter from wind, to protect
soil from erosion, etc.)

When do you desire to plant?

Additional information.....

AGREEMENT.—I hereby make application for the examination by the Forest Service of the planting site above described, with the understanding that any planting recommendations will be carried out as far as is found practicable and that reports describing such plantations and their results will be furnished the Forest Service whenever requested.

(Signed).....

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(Form 704.)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE—FOREST SERVICE.

APPLICATION FOR EXAMINATION OF FOREST LANDS.

....., 19...
(date)

Name of owner.....

Post-office address.....

Location of tract.....
(town) (county) (State)

Area of tract.....acres.

Character of forest.....
(species, average size)Condition of forest.....
(Approximate per cent mature, second growth, burned over,
cut over, etc.)Wishes of owner.....
(State the purpose you desire the forest growth to serve, i. e., production of fuel and
other miscellaneous wood products for home consumption; production of fuel, ties, poles, timber, etc., for
sale)Additional information.....
(State here any information that may help the agent of the Forest Service
in making the examination of the tract, such as the accommodations available, the name of the person
who will accompany agent, the nearest railroad station, etc.)

AGREEMENT.—I hereby make application for the examination by the Forest Service of the above-described tract, with the understanding that its future management and protection will as far as is found practicable conform to the recommendations of the Forest Service embodied in the report on the examination; and I further agree to supply the Forest Service, when so requested, with reports on the work done, its cost, and the results obtained.

(Signed).....

[Cir. 203]

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